

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, it will create problems for consumers to be able to exercise their freedom under the fair use doctrine to record a copy for their own personal use.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?  
It might interfere with the quality, depending on how it works.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?  
Yes, anything that does not recognize the flag will either not play it properly or refuse to play it at all.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?  
Yes, since everything digital would be required to incorporate this flag.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?  
It would probably increase costs slightly by adding at least one chip to handle the flag properly.

Other Comments:

I believe that this proposal will only interfere with the ability of honest citizens to record digital programs and use them under the fair use doctrine. Anyone who is intent on illegal distribution will find a way to get around the flag, just like the encryption on DVDs has been cracked by pirates.